



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending October 28, 2007

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Poor week for Field Work: Scattered showers were seen off-and-on throughout Pennsylvania during previous week. The much needed rain also brought cooler temperatures to the hot, dry October we have been experiencing. Although the rain only allowed a few days for field work, many people are just happy to finally have precipitation. The soil quickly absorbed most moisture as pastures are rejuvenating and winter crops are already starting to emerge. Overall, 3 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included fall plowing, filling silos, mowing pastures, repairing equipment, making hay, baling fodder, liming fields, planting wheat and barley, and harvesting corn, soybeans, grapes, and apples.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 28, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
17	30	51	2

Crops: Ninety-six percent of the corn crop has reached maturity, only a slight change from the previous week. Corn harvest is now 51 percent complete. This is 9 points lower than this time last year and than the five-year average. Corn conditions show that 52 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Forty-eight percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Harvesting of soybeans is still ahead of schedule, as 55 percent of the crop is now harvested. This is 6 points higher than this time last year and 14 points higher than the 5-year average. Eighty-three percent of the wheat crop has been planted. This is 2 points above this time last year and right in line with the 5-year average. Sixty-two percent of the planted wheat has now emerged. This is 6 points higher than this time last year and 3 points higher than the 5-year average. Ninety percent of the barley crop has been planted, which is 5 points lower than this time last year and the 5-year average. Seventy-four percent of the planted barley has now emerged. This is 6 points behind this time last year and 9 points lower than the 5-year average. Fifty-one percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 90 percent of the fourth cutting of alfalfa has been completed.

Ninety-three percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 3 points behind this time last year, but 1 point ahead of the 5-year average. The grape harvest is definitely underway as 73 percent of the crop has been harvested. The weather conditions have been wonderful for a great grape harvest!

Livestock: Pastures received the much needed rain. This week, farmers are hoping for a little sunshine to promote better grass growth. Currently 10 percent of the pastures are in good or excellent condition. Pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 25%, poor 31%, fair 34%, good 10%, and excellent 0%.

U.S. as of October 21, 2007: Locally, heavy showers also dotted the Northeast. Warmth in advance of the Eastern rain resulted in numerous daily-record highs. Scattered showers brought between a half inch and 1 inch of rain across the entire eastern third of the country. From the High Plains eastward, temperatures were 3 to 12 degrees Fahrenheit above average.

Corn: Sixty percent of the corn crop was harvested nationwide, 9 and 5 points ahead of last year and average, respectively. Progress was well ahead of normal in most areas.

Soybeans: Soybean harvest, at 75 percent, was behind last year and normal by 1 and 3 points, respectively. In most of the Corn Belt, harvest was behind schedule. Elsewhere, outside the Corn Belt, harvest progress was ahead of schedule.

Winter Wheat: Compared with 84 percent last year and normally, producers had planted 82 percent of the winter wheat crop. Conditions allowed planting to progress at or ahead of schedule in most of the Corn Belt, while in the central and southern Great Plains planting was behind the normal pace. Emergence of the crop, at 57 percent, was behind the previous year's pace and normal by 5 and 7 points, respectively.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 28, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 28, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	80	46	59	10	2.08	4	21.08	-4.98	69	3,202	578	5,141
Franklin	77	33	54	7	2.67	4	22.86	-4.75	84	2,899	501	4,843
Meadville	76	37	55	9	2.51	5	20.25	-7.72	81	2,971	777	4,901
Mercer	78	34	54	8	2.47	4	25.04	-1.20	79	2,872	498	4,811
Springboro	76	37	54	6	2.50	4	24.69	-0.41	95	2,573	5	4,481
Warren	77	37	54	8	2.29	4	28.52	0.51	83	2,663	350	4,585
North Central												
Bradford Region	72	32	52	9	1.80	4	24.76	-2.99	90	2,063	408	3,888
Emporium	75	38	53	9	1.61	4	27.68	0.31	79	2,699	815	4,644
Kane	75	32	51	8	2.17	5	28.40	-0.04	81	2,065	451	3,900
Laporte	71	36	52	6	2.91	4	26.19	0.45	85	2,427	61	4,303
Lock Haven	78	40	55	8	1.49	5	17.56	-7.66	63	3,202	683	5,163
Port Allegany	76	36	52	8	2.07	4	23.09	-3.39	75	2,275	443	4,144
Renovo	78	40	55	8	1.50	4	23.03	-2.19	69	3,046	527	4,998
Ridgway	76	31	51	7	1.95	4	23.40	-3.97	81	2,348	464	4,239
Stevenson Dam	80	39	55	11	1.69	4	19.90	-7.47	72	2,887	1,003	4,831
Towanda	78	39	54	8	1.58	4	20.51	-0.88	75	2,690	303	4,592
Wellsboro	74	35	51	8	1.81	5	25.43	3.89	84	2,242	467	4,101
Williamsport	74	40	57	9	1.76	4	19.50	-5.62	67	3,437	660	5,423
Northeast												
Hawley	79	37	53	8	2.22	4	29.59	5.34	74	2,483	451	4,383
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	78	41	58	10	2.44	4	27.22	3.68	64	3,169	536	5,127
Susquehanna	77	38	54	10	2.14	4	29.45	3.33	78	2,636	717	4,551
West Central												
Butler	78	38	54	7	1.50	6	22.20	-3.73	78	2,868	379	4,817
New Castle	85	34	56	9	2.25	6	21.96	-1.89	72	3,215	722	5,177
Slippery Rock	81	35	56	10	2.21	5	25.28	-0.20	78	3,075	843	5,035
Central												
Altoona/Blair	76	40	56	8	1.69	6	21.86	-1.05	78	3,030	381	4,981
DuBois	75	34	55	9	1.80	5	21.79	-4.29	91	2,795	524	4,721
Lewistown	79	42	57	8	2.32	5	24.08	-0.44	70	3,281	370	5,255
Middletown	77	47	61	10	2.52	5	26.21	1.82	62	3,940	638	5,939
Prince Gallitzi	75	39	53	7	1.44	6	23.94	-5.30	71	2,515	392	4,430
Selinsgrove	74	41	56	9	2.60	5	19.81	-5.74	63	3,236	530	5,199
State College	75	41	56	8	1.82	6	20.09	-3.03	72	3,229	630	5,195
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	77	43	61	11	2.86	4	27.28	0.84	73	3,508	497	5,486
Lehighton	75	42	56	7	2.95	5	32.82	6.31	80	3,019	119	4,978
Matamoras	78	40	55	8	2.73	4	30.81	4.12	72	2,771	170	4,712
Mt_Pocono	74	38	55	12	2.75	4	32.56	3.81	89	2,560	815	4,457
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	40	57	9	1.37	6	22.47	-1.68	77	3,580	907	5,562
Derry	80	39	57	10	1.89	4	32.93	7.89	70	3,027	508	4,976
Myersdale	79	33	54	7	2.51	5	23.27	-4.17	76	2,322	-163	4,201
Mount Pleasant	78	38	56	10	1.41	5	26.86	-1.77	75	2,914	667	4,868
Pittsburgh Intl	79	36	57	9	1.37	5	21.84	-0.66	69	3,457	658	5,430
Connellsville	80	38	58	9	1.90	6	27.78	1.27	85	3,412	556	5,393
Waynesburg	79	36	56	9	1.22	3	24.30	-0.16	75	3,104	523	5,070
South Central												
Biglerville	78	45	58	8	3.20	5	22.03	-1.30	62	3,601	373	5,593
Everett	76	36	54	7	2.03	4	22.76	0.26	74	2,597	-47	4,538
Hanover	79	43	59	9	2.55	5	19.29	-4.04	60	3,551	323	5,534
Harrisburg_AP	78	46	61	11	2.54	3	20.96	-3.43	51	3,832	520	5,834
South Mountain	74	40	56	8	3.21	4	24.66	1.75	66	2,863	224	4,809
York	80	41	62	11	2.62	4	23.50	-1.18	62	3,488	262	5,475
Southeast												
Green Lane	77	47	60	11	3.03	5	28.43	2.81	68	3,553	682	5,534
Hamburg	76	45	59	12	3.40	6	29.30	-0.50	77	3,596	999	5,583
West_Chester	79	43	60	9	4.23	5	32.15	4.20	65	3,460	247	5,435
Lancaster	76	47	61	11	2.95	5	26.76	0.82	62	3,591	546	5,579
Neshaminy Falls	78	43	60	10	3.50	5	34.77	5.28	69	3,345	343	5,311
New Holland	77	46	61	11	3.70	5	29.04	3.10	65	3,703	658	5,685
Philadelphia	81	50	65	12	2.83	5	27.13	2.17	58	4,272	735	6,284
Philadelphia NE	81	49	65	12	3.06	5	28.24	3.28	69	4,202	665	6,214
Reading	78	46	61	12	2.97	4	26.71	-0.79	70	3,766	786	5,758
Valley Forge Na	80	46	61	10	4.48	4	31.43	4.59	76	3,570	159	5,555
Willow Grove	79	48	63	13	3.29	5	28.56	-0.93	74	3,771	769	5,758

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney - Adams County is finally getting some moisture. Tuesday night started to mist and then Wednesday into Thursday morning had around 1.5" and didn't do much yesterday but Thursday night started to rain again and still raining this morning (Friday) with forecasts of more rainfall to come. It is by no means too wet in the county just not good timing for those trying to harvest crops and get small grains seeded. Not much sunshine this week. Temperatures until Tuesday were in the 70's and then temperatures dropped to 50's the rest of the week. Rainfall Friday till Saturday morning ranged from 1 inch to 4 inches in some parts of the county. Temperatures Sunday into Monday were 30 degrees with a heavy frost.

Corn and soybean harvests continued the beginning of the week until the rains came. Corn and soybeans are about 75% done harvesting. Last night (Sun) into this morning (Mon) was 30 degrees with heavy frost that will kill some of the crops that were still green. Wheat and barley were seeded until the rains came but now with the rains some earlier planted wheat and barley that were just waiting for moisture are now starting to emerge. The next sunny day will see more small grains emerging.

Apples continue to be harvested. The rains this week have slowed harvest a little. Some producers are finishing up harvest this week with others having maybe 2 more weeks till they are done. Apples are plentiful but some are smaller size causing a shift in markets from fresh to processing. Pumpkins continue to be harvested before the rains and Halloween season.

Overall the weather we had in Adams County this week has been very beneficial for the soil moisture levels. No run-off has occurred. The soil is like a sponge absorbing all the moisture it can since it's been dry for awhile in the county. People are acting like we've had so much rainfall but we haven't and will welcome some sunshine here in the next few days.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Received a nice rain this week. Slowed the apple harvest, but this was the first rainy spell of the entire harvest season. Yields are still mostly normal or above. Expect to finish this week for most producers.

BERKS COUNTY, William T Boyd - Barley and Wheat emergence is good. Yields for corn have been varying. There is possibility 5th cutting of hay. Pastures are coming back since the rains.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - We got our first heavy frost last night - county wide. The week started out warm but dropped toward the end of the week. Corn harvesting continues. With last night's frost soybean harvesting should begin.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Good rainfall during the week, 1 3/4" in my gage. Fieldwork slowed due to the rain.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - Had 5" of rain this week; slowed corn and soybean harvest, but we needed it.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Rain! We finally had rain in the amount of over 4 1/2 inches since Friday, October 19. The recent rains have improved the grain and grass fields and the water table. Very few field activities took place during the week. Corn harvest and spreading manure were the activities for the week.

WESTMORELANDCOUNTY, John Lohr - Finally got the first significant moisture of the fall. Most areas had near 2 inches. Even with the rain, corn and soybean harvest made good progress. Some of the soybeans could use a frost to kill the green stalks.

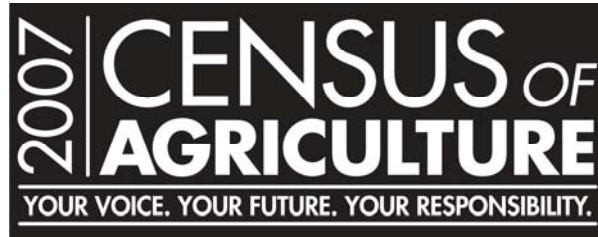
Corn and soybean harvest has been stalled due to the rain, but the rain was beneficial for the new fall seedings of hay and grain as well as the established pastures and hay fields. Also gave producers a chance to catch up on repairs and non field work.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 28, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	73	69	70
Corn, mature	96	100	96
Corn, harvested	51	60	60
Barley, planted	90	95	95
Barley, emerged	74	80	83
Wheat, planted	83	81	83
Wheat, emerged	62	56	59
Soybeans, harvested	55	49	41
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	90	92	87
Apples, harvested	93	96	92
Grapes, harvested	73	79	88

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 28, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	14	16	18	41	11
Wheat	0	14	37	44	5
Soybeans	5	19	28	31	17
Quality of hay made	8	16	25	39	12
Pasture	25	31	34	10	0



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